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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

SMALLER 1925 - 26 CROP OF PALESTINE ORANGES

At 1,300,000 cases, the first production forecast for the Palestine orange season of 1925-26 is approximately 35 per cent less than the past year's crop according to O. S. Heizer, American Consul at Jerusalem. An earlier estimate of 200 acres of new plantings has been increased by the Palestine Department of Agriculture to 300 acres. A competent authority is of the opinion that the figure of 1,000 acres given as the area of non-bearing trees is too great. Lack of accurate acreage data renders impossible at present the estimating of the probable increase in annual production from young plantings between now and 1930.

Production per acre in Palestine is estimated at approximately 220 - 350 boxes per acre at an average of 150 oranges per box, against 160 boxes per acre in California. In Jewish orchards the yield is higher than in Arab orchards, since the former use larger quantities of good manure. Jews own some 40 per cent of the producing orchards against 60 per cent owned by Arabs. On the basis of 6818 acres as the area under cultivation during the season 1924-25 and a production of 2,000,000 boxes for that season, it appears that the average yield per acre would be approximately 293 boxes for all Palestine. This estimate is in line with those of the production and average yield for earlier years. During the 1912-13 crop year, it is estimated that approximately 5,682 acres were bearing fruit. The total production was about 1,600,000 cases, giving an average yield of 281 cases per acre. Trees are planted at the rate of 264- 440 per acre illustrating an intensive method of production. The orchards appear very thickly wooded, the foliage entirely covering the ground. They are very well irrigated and manured.

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